(19) World Intellectual Property **Organization**

International Bureau





(43) International Publication Date 13 October 2005 (13.10.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number WO 2005/095391 A1

(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every

kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM,

AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN,

CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI,

GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE,

KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD,

MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG,

PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, SY, TJ,

TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA,

- C07D 417/06, (51) International Patent Classification⁷: 417/14, A61K 31/427, 31/4436, 31/506, A61P 35/00
- (21) International Application Number:

PCT/US2005/009970

- (22) International Filing Date: 23 March 2005 (23.03.2005)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language:

der, Colorado 80301 (US).

English

(30) Priority Data:

60/556,217

24 March 2004 (24.03.2004) US

- (84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).
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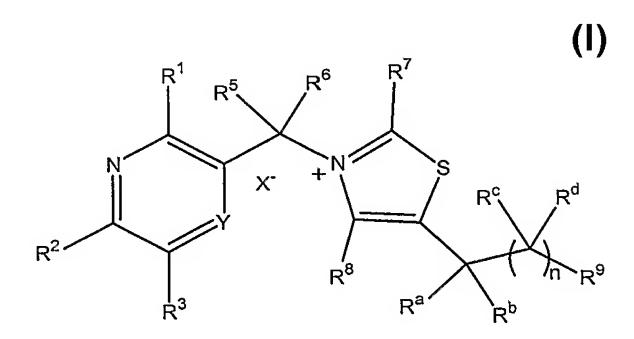
- (74) Agents: HALEY, James, F., Jr. et al.; Fish & Neave IP Group, Ropes & Gray LLP, 1251 Avenue of the Americas, New York, New York 10020 (US).
- **Published:**

ZM, ZW.

- with international search report
- before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: THIAZOLIUMS AS TRANSKETOLASE INHIBITORS



(57) Abstract: The present invention provides N-3'-pyridylmethyl or N-2'-pyrazinylmethyl thiazolium derivatives of formula (I) which are useful as transketolase inhibitors wherein R¹, R², R³, Y, R⁵-R⁹, R^a-R^d, n and X⁻ are as defined herein. The present invention also provides pharmaceutical compositions comprising the compounds of formula (I). The invention provides methods for inhibiting transketolase activity, reducing cellular ribose-5-phosphate levels, inhibiting nucleic acid synthesis, inhibiting cell proliferation and tumor cell growth in vitro and in vivo, stimulating apoptosis in tumor cells and treating cancer by administering a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutical composition thereof.